

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11408 221506Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01
OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /115 W
-----019177 221510Z /53

P 221449Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8294
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
SECDEF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
JCS WASH DC
DIA WASH DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEURL LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T CAIRO 11408

USIAEA, CINCS ALSO FOR ROLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, IAEA, US, EG
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) TRANSIT OF
- SUEZ CANAL
REF: (A) STATE 102620, (B) VIENNA 3532

1. AM SLIGHTLY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMLICATIONS WHICH IAEA
INVOLVEMENT IN REFERENCE SUBJECT, AT GOE REQUEST, COULD
CREATE. I RECOGNIZE THERE IS VALUE IN LETTING IAEA
PROCEED ON ITS OWN LEISURELY COURSE IN REPLYING TO
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EGYPTIAN QUERIES (REF A). AT SAME TIME, THERE IS DANGER
HERE THAT PEOPLE LIKE ATOMIC ENERGY DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HAMMOUDA AND SCA OFFICIALS WILL ARGUE THAT DECISION
SHOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL IAEA RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
WHAT WE CLEARLY MUST DO IS REMIND EGYPTIANS AGAIN AND
AGAIN THAT DESIGN AND OPERATION OF NPW'S IS QUITE
DIFFERENT FROM NUCLEAR POWERED COMMERCIAL VESSELS

AND THAT IAEA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AND KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT FORMER CATEGORY OF VESSEL, IF THIS IS INDEED SO.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT IAEA RESPONSE AND IAEA TEAM, WHEN SENT, ADHERE STRICTLY TO NON-MILITARY LETTER OF IAEA STATUTE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER, IF WE COULD ON OUR OWN PREPARE EGYPTIANS FOR THIS. IS THERE ANY WAY THAT WE COULD REVEAL TO EGYPTIANS THAT WE KNOW ABOUT THEIR REQUEST TO IAEA AND USE THIS AS A PEG TO MAKE THE POINT INDICATED ABOVE? THIS MIGHT HELP AVOID DELAY INDECISION-MAKING ON NPW TRANSITS. IF IAEA PROVIDED INFO ON CLASSIFIED BASIS, THOUGHT OCCURS TO US THAT PERHAPS INFO ABOUT EGYPTIAN QUERY COULD BE ELICITED IN SOME WAY FROM EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR OMAR SIRRI.

3. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IS SOME KIND OF A PEG ON WHICH I COULD HANG OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MAKE SURE EGYPTIANS UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NPW'S AND NUCLEAR COMMERCIAL VESSELS AND THE INAPPLICABILITY TO NPW'S OF ANY ADVICE IAEA MAY GIVE. THIS WILL BE NECESSARY IF WE ARE GOING TO PRESS GOE PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH A FAVORABLE DECISION ON NPW TRANSITS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL. EILTS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CANALS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO11408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0675
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxpg.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a1a54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 102620, 78 VIENNA 3532
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2882335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) TRANSIT OF - SUEZ CANAL
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, US, EG, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a1a54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014